

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of providing green bricks having a textured face, textured corners and edges as viewed when laid in a wall with an aged or handmade appearance, said method comprising:

- a) providing a grid arrangement of green brick having upper faces and aligned in an end-to-end manner in longitudinal rows and in side-by-side manner in transverse rows;
- b) bodily indexing said grid to longitudinally move the brick therein a distance equal to at least the length of each green brick to position alternate brick of one transverse row of brick in alignment with a corresponding upstream embossing device including an embossing die; and
- c) actuating each of said upstream embossing devices to move the embossing die in a downward linear direction perpendicular to the upper side face of each of the alternate brick of said one transverse row to engage and deform said upper face of the alternate brick of said one transverse row to provide an aged appearance to said upper face so that said one transverse row consists of alternating embossed brick and non-embossed brick.

2. The method of claim 1, including effecting the following steps subsequent to step c):
- d) bodily indexing said grid to position said one transverse row to a dwell position in which the upper face of each non-embossed brick of said one transverse row faces a corresponding downstream embossing device; and

5

- e) actuating each of said downstream embossing devices to move an embossing member in a downward linear direction perpendicular to the upper face of each of the non-embossed brick of said one transverse row of brick to engage and deform said upper face to provide an aged appearance to said upper face.

3. The method of claim 1, including effecting upward vertical movement of the alternate brick of said one transverse row of brick during step b) so that the alternate brick are positioned at a higher elevation than the remaining brick of said one transverse row upon completion of step b).

4. The method of claim 2, including effecting upward vertical movement of the alternate brick of said one transverse row of brick during step b) so that alternate brick are positioned at a higher elevation than the remaining brick of said one transverse row up completion of step b) and further effecting upward vertical movement of the non-embossed brick of said one transverse row of brick during step e) so that the non-embossed brick are positioned at a higher elevation than the embossed brick of said one transverse row upon completion of step e).

5

5. An apparatus for embossing green brick having longitudinal and transverse dimensions, first and second edge faces, upper and lower faces, a forward end face and a rearward end face to provide an aged effect, said apparatus comprising:

- 5
- a) a flat work table having a lengthwise dimension extending between upstream and downstream ends of said work table and a transverse dimension and having an upper surface supporting a grid array of brick comprising plural lengthwise aligned rows of brick and plural transverse aligned rows of brick;
- b) a first transverse row of embossing devices positioned above the work table, each of said embossing devices being aligned with alternate ones of said lengthwise aligned rows;
- 10
- c) a second transverse row of embossing devices positioned downstream of said first transverse row of embossing devices with each embossing device being aligned with one of the lengthwise extending rows that is not aligned with any of the embossing devices of said first transverse row of embossing devices;
- 15
- d) a pusher for indexing transverse rows of green brick in a downstream direction on said work table a distance equal the longitudinal dimension of each brick;
- e) said embossing devices each including a die mounted for linear downward vertical movement toward said work table to engage a stationary green brick positioned beneath the respective embossing device; and
- 20
- f) control means for sequentially actuating said pusher and said embossing devices to move said pusher from a home position to an extended position to move said transverse row of green brick on to the work table a distance equal to the length of the green brick followed by both return of the pusher to the home position and

simultaneous actuation of all of said embossing devices and subsequent initiation of a second cycle of operation.

6. An apparatus as recited in claim 5, additionally including a brick elevating ramp on said work table beneath each of said embossing devices for receiving and elevating each brick above the work table and above adjacent bricks in all adjacent longitudinal rows as each brick is indexed into position beneath each respective embossing device.
7. An apparatus as recited in claim 5, wherein each embossing device includes an inflatable air bladder which when inflated urges the die downwardly into contact with a face of a green brick dwelling beneath the embossing device.
8. An apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein each embossing device includes an inflatable air bladder which when inflated urges the die downwardly into contact with the side face of a green brick dwelling beneath the embossing device.
9. An apparatus as recited in claim 5, additionally including a third transverse row of embossing devices positioned above the work table at a location downstream of said second transverse row of embossing devices.

10. An apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein said third transverse row of embossing devices has individual embossing devices longitudinally aligned with an embossing device in either the first or second rows of embossing devices so as to effect a second impression of design on brick previously embossed by an embossing device in the first or second transverse rows of embossing devices.
11. An apparatus as recited in claim 9, additionally including a brick elevating ramp on said work table beneath each of said embossing devices for receiving and elevating each brick above the work table and above bricks in the adjacent longitudinal row as each brick is indexed into position beneath each respective embossing device.
12. An apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein each embossing device includes an inflatable air bladder which when inflated urges the die downwardly into contact with the side face of a green brick dwelling beneath the embossing device.
13. An apparatus as recited in claim 5, wherein said die includes a support frame, first and second elongated embossing plates attached to said support frame and positioned to engage the upper side edges of said stationary green brick for deforming the green brick.
14. An apparatus as recited in claim 13, wherein said elongated embossing plates are canted toward each other at their upper portions.

15. An apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein at least one of said embossing plates is of undulating configuration.